



US 20210035708A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Oro et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2021/0035708 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date:** **Feb. 4, 2021**

(54) **CABLE WITH VARIABLE STIFFNESS**

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(21) Appl. No.: **16/983,476**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 3, 2020**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 62/882,250, filed on Aug. 2, 2019.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01B 7/04 (2006.01)

H01B 7/02 (2006.01)

H01B 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H01B 7/04** (2013.01); **H01R 13/58** (2013.01); **H01B 7/0081** (2013.01); **H01B 7/0275** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A cable can include a cable core surrounded by an outer sleeve having a uniform thickness and further having a first longitudinal section having a first stiffness (e.g., corresponding to a flexible cable), a second longitudinal section having a second stiffness (e.g., corresponding to a rigid cable), and a third longitudinal section between the first and second longitudinal sections, where the second stiffness is greater than the first stiffness and where a stiffness of the third longitudinal section varies between the first stiffness and the second stiffness. The second longitudinal section can provide strain relief for the cable.

